



Targets and Countermeasures

Mission

The Program Director for Targets and Countermeasures (TC) is responsible for design, prototyping, development, procurement, certification, product improvement, and qualification testing of a suite of targets and countermeasures that provide realistic threat challenges to the evolving layered missile defense system.

Description



The TC Program Director ensures that targets and countermeasures leverage available and emerging technologies from domestic and foreign sources, and that acquisition programs are capabilities driven, employ spiral development processes and deliver expected performance within cost and schedule at reasonable risk.

The Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) elements verify their design performance and assess their capabilities in a variety of ways including flight testing against live targets. The targets used in those test accurately simulate potential real world threats.

Getting targets ready for flight test events involves designing, prototyping, developing, procuring, certifying, and qualifying them; and TC is responsible for those areas. Target systems include launch systems, payloads(including countermeasures), re-entry vehicles, and extensive instrumentation and avionics in numerous configurations designed to test the performance of missile defense sensors and weapons.

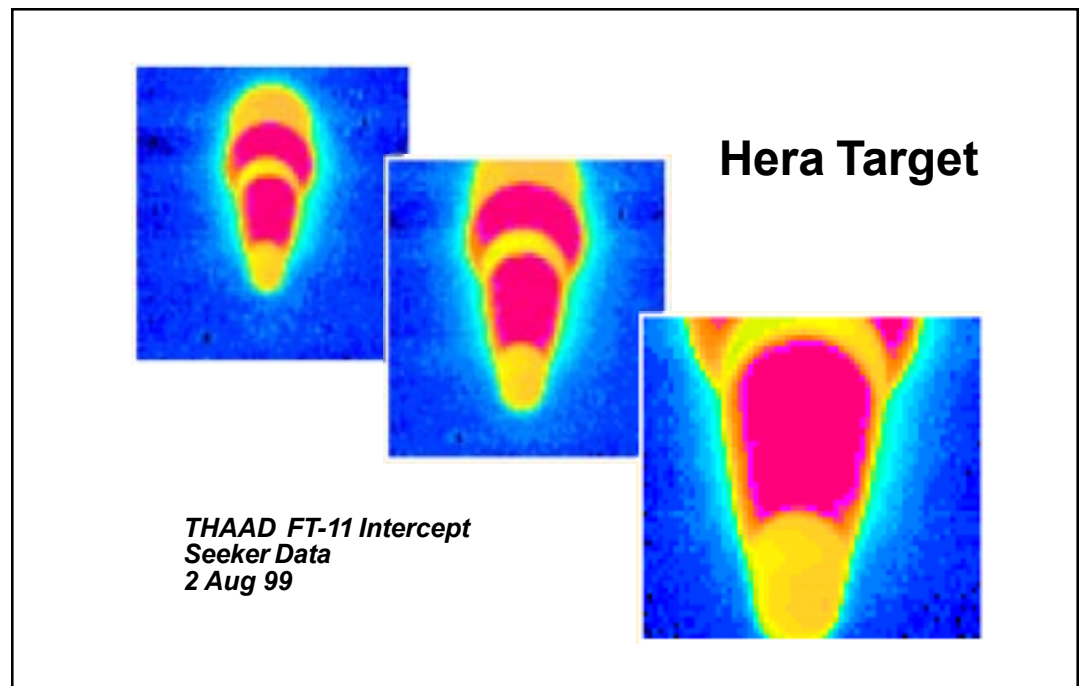
Challenging the BMDS and elements against realistic countermeasures is an increasingly important facet of the BMDS test and assessment program. TC is responsible for developing and integrating those countermeasures into the test targets as well as flight support and data reduction post-test. TC leverages advancing tech-

nologies within a spiral development process that fully supports the capability based acquisition target needs of the BMDS to make appropriately threat-representative and cost-effective target systems and countermeasures available for use in tests. Advanced target applications in progress include short- and long-range air-launched targets and liquid fuel boosters. Additionally,TC is exploring the potential use of long-range heavy lift targets and mobile launch/basing platforms, along with the development and future procurement of advanced countermeasures and payloads.

Success is measured by TC's ability to provide the appropriate target system on schedule, at the agreed upon cost, and within approved performance parameters. The national laboratories provide expertise in the development and integration of appropriate countermeasures and payloads. To contain costs, several targets use retired components from the Army Pershing II program, Navy Polaris program, and Air Force Minuteman program, as well as some Foreign Material Acquisitions. The use of such components is reviewed for

treaty compliance and determined to be consistent with applicable U.S. arms control agreements.

The target program has launched more than 120 targets, ranging from short-range, such as the Lance, to long-range target systems, such as the ICBM-class Minuteman II.



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<http://www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/bmdolink/html/>

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